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THE ARTS, SCIENCES, LITERATURE, DEVOTED TO, ROMANCE AND GENERAL REFORMATION, SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY

Truth wears no mask, bows at no human shrine, seeks neither place nor applause: she only asks a heart

**IMPORTANT LECTURE**

Delivered by Rev. John W. Gerde-  
mann, at Philadelphia, September  
28th, 1875.

Our Public Schools, They Must Be Protected!

Sept. 28th, a brilliant assemblage greeted the Rev. John W. Gardemann at the Academy of Music, to hear his lecture on "Our Public Schools: shall they remain free or become sectarian?" A number of various Protestant organizations attended the lecture in a body. Amongst them were the Pioneer corps in their brilliant uniforms, Prince of Orange, Waldeuse, Minnehaha, Oriental Taylor, Mt. Sinai Lodge, A. P. A., and No Surrender Lodge I. O. L. were also present in a body.

The distinguished lecturer was introduced by the Rev. James Crowe, pastor of the United Presbyterian Church, on Morris Square, only one square distant from the ever to be remembered St. Bonifacius R. C. Church. The lecturer was very enthusiastically received, and

On the 26th day of July last, I had the pleasure of addressing you at Horticultural Hall, I took occasion to say that I was not a Catholic, and I would strictly and conscientiously adhere to the principles of the Protestant religion, and I would come to night. I have, since speaking on that night, had the great satisfaction that not a single person has taken exception to my remarks. On the contrary, many Catholics, and many Protestants, have been so fully satisfied that I spoke the truth, without coloring or exaggeration. Many of us, in fact, have been so fully satisfied that the portions have been made to me in case proof should be needed. In some quarters false reports have been spread, that I was not personal, but then experience has taught us of all things, that the truth is the best. Furthermore, I considered it a duty to show you the men were that had so shamefully and so wantonly abused me, and I thought, though not in the least sorry for the turn matters had taken, that I would show you the man that I did not begin the attack. With these few preliminary remarks I now proceed to read the substance of the address made at Horticultural Hall. They remain free or second-

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What makes the Pope so furious about our school system? What inspires the greatest clergy with such hatred against this greatest of all our modern schools? Are they afraid that the children of our country are not being built up as obedient to teach them better, or do they, perhaps, fear they learn too much and wish to keep them a little more in the dark? I rather fear they are prompted by the latter consideration. Let us look at it closely. The Catholic church is, emphatically, the church of ignorance. No doubt within the church there have been at all times and are to-day men of great ability and vast learning, and but for these men the Papacy, that combination of fraud and tyranny, would not have ex-

and to his day. I said that Catholic writers upon the fact, that the manuscripts of the Bible were written in Greek, and that they think that we have less reason to thank those faithful fellows for what they have done, than we have to regret that we have not been allowed to perish. For you must recollect that the Greek language is not only identified with monasticism, and every monastery is a school, but that the Greek language is a Greek one single line, a great many more Latin and Greek authors would have been written in Greek, than in Latin. I said that the will, they had, was, as the rule, so ignorant of the will, they had not the ability to teach their country. Where, I said, did the Catholic Church have its origin? Where, I said, did the Church of Rome originate? Where did it fall? The Divine commission was given to the Jews, and to the Jews, where only a few of the richest could buy knowledge, certainly not in the churches of the Gentiles. The service in a foreign tongue, even, even in the churches of the Gentiles, was not in themselves. No, the Catholic Church never originated in the Gentiles, but in the Jews, and it was, and it will, it would close it to the Gentiles. But, happily, in spite of the Papal domination, and the Catholic domination, the human race and found out its weakness. The human race was too strong and too powerful to be so long under the domination of the

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Well, those gentlemen have had full control over the education of a good many students. Let us see what success attended their efforts; let us see what efforts rather they have made. Italy was one of those countries where Rome ruled supreme. The country is rich and beautiful. But the people! You would ever suppose them to be descendants of the powerful, conquering, Roman empire. No, no, no, indeed! They were ignorant even for the children of the people, ignorance reigned everywhere, and in many portions of the pontifical and South Italian states there was many a village where only the priest and physician had any idea of the use of pen and ink, and in the train of that widespread and general ignorance followed all the miseries, poverty, laziness and crime

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could drag to the surface so many and such  
horrible demons in human form as the late

Poor France has not learned the lesson; on the contrary, Rome at present is again triumphant there, and God knows how many trials are yet in store for her. The same can be said of Austria, as long as the church controls the schooling of the children. Ignorance and a low state of morality, yet prevail to a very great extent.

South America has fared no better at the hands of the church.

Bishops and priests have been exceedingly careless about the education of youth. So there is very little encouragement, indeed in the end and experience of other nations, to determine us to give over the control of our schools to the priests. As long as our schools are thriving as they do and educate our children so successfully, we better let well enough

Finally, it would be questionable whether the people of this country are not already too sanguine. In other words, it is a question whether the State ought not to enforce the law of the land, and to keep the children for a certain period, at least, of all the children in the land. For my part, I confess I delight in the liberty given to every man to govern his own property, and to the children of the land. I am glad to see that whilst the doors of our public schools are thrown wide open to all, the doors of the State are closed to all who will be viewed in a different light.

The State has undoubtedly a right to see to it that all on whom it confers its benefits and its protection shall be intelligent and self-reliant users of them. The State has a right to see that all children, fully understand and prize the liberty, and independence we enjoy under the Constitution, and that they are not, in any manner, to be used as a means of discrimination, this assumes a far greater importance than it is generally supposed to be.

Every steamer lands on our shores, immigrants to whom everything is new and novel. They bring with them all their peculiar notions and habits, and a civilization they have been accustomed to from infancy.

And still we don't want America to be a conglomeration of so many Irishmen, Scotchmen, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans, Italians, etc., but it is highly important and necessary even that it should be one nation, and that an American nation, with American thoughts and ideas. The old people coming here as emigrants would never seriously be left their own language, but would be left to their own discretion and judgment. And their offspring can be Americanized, and where can this be done more successfully, more easily, than in our public schools?

And with regard to the parochial schools, there would seem to be a peculiar danger to our highly prized liberties, for in these schools the errors of the 'Papal' church are inculcated and impressed on the minds of the children. There they are taught that there is a power here to be respected than the power of our country. There they are taught that God's commands must be obeyed before those of Columbia. So the friends of compulsory education in the public schools would, I think, have very good ground to stand on. Well, I hope that always the freest, country, the most virtuous and the most progressive class and sect of our citizens, and I rejoice in the fact that parochial schools are allowed to be built side by side with our public schools.

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The whole management of the schools is entirely left in the hands of the parish priest, and I know they don't like to see their people in the hands of the priests. The priests, on their side, complain that the people know too much in this country. They used to extol, in glowing words, the state of the people in the past, and they said that they were in their hands, they knew almost nothing, and would be managed with admirable ease by the priests.

In fact some were almost sorry for having come here and regretted having left Ireland, because the ignorance of their parishioners was a great hindrance to them. There is no board of education to superintend the schools in the diocese. There is no examination of the teachers before they enter upon their duties. The priests are not necessarily superior, and so it often happens that a servant girl with the most ordinary education is placed in the position of superior, administrator and teacher. There is one order of sisters in this and neighboring dioceses having

charge of a great many schools, which is peculiarly unfit for the office of teaching.

It would be generally supposed that the Bureau would be the place for praying and for religious instruction. But the priests don't want to pray and religious teaching, and by the time children get through with their prayers and fast days, the much valuable opportunity

The difference between the efficiency of the public and parochial schools is strikingly illustrated when Catholic children who have been reared in the public schools attend instructions for first communion or confirmation. At first glance you can distinguish them from those who have attended parochial schools. They do not only excel by their ready obedience to all rules and their general good behavior. Even in these parochial schools, where lay persons teach alongside of sisters or brothers, the difference invariably is in favor of the classes

And here comes to appear the only good Catholic schools do. They alienate the children from that church which for its ends has withheld from the mothers they might have enjoyed in the public schools for a thorough education.

Children don't remain children always. After the school years have passed, the stars rise and the sun sets. The time of youth is over and for themselves, for it is impossible in this kind of free speech and of a free press to hoodwink the people. They find out from their sorrow that the young men and women brought up in our Godless schools have many advantages and opportunities. They are not afraid of the word "sinning" (God save the mark) political schools. They learn to despise and turn in disgust from the hypocrites and the liars who are the only heirs from them the golden opportunities. We do not find the same state of affairs in Catholic countries. There the young men and women believe in the word of God and the Christian belief is able to raise a finger for the Pope's restoration to temporal power. They have enough of his rule, and are heartily sick of it. They are not afraid of the word "sinning," for it, and the good old soul being inflexible, they will accept it without further discussion. They are not afraid of the word "sinning" and his church better than any other, and just he is more Pope in America than any

Don't know whether our people fear our government are exceedingly fond of him or his policies. He simply enjoys to move and no less than anybody else, so if we, therefore, see him in the White House, we will be glad. I already made his Catholic nations treat him! Even when that great but calm all the way from the White House, he will be glad to see there are very good and excellent man, with to much punch and emphasis, with a live how to do it, and I will be glad to see the President our worthy President to witness the ceremony. Well, on the whole, I feel very good about the President. I will be glad to see the light of maintaining parochial schools, with the provision that they pay the cost. But if they do not, I will be glad to see the President will thunder in their ears a "NO" now and forever. If they try to antagonize State and National Government, I will be glad to see the American people will rise in their anger, majesty and crush every such plan or scheme. I will be glad to see the President's own House in its attacks upon our schools, I will be glad to see the last party will be brain

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